

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1 1. A method for calibrating a printing device, comprising the following
2 steps:

3 (a) performing an on-media calibration, including the following substeps:

4 (a.1) placing colorant on print media,

5 (a.2) performing a measurement to obtain on-media calibration
6 measured values, and

7 (a.3) using the on-media calibration measured values to calibrate
8 the printing device;

9 (b) performing an off-media calibration to obtain off-media calibration
10 measured values, the off-media calibration being performed without placing
11 colorant on print media;

12 (c) making a correlation between the on-media calibration measured
13 values and the off-media calibration measured values; and,

14 (d) performing subsequent off-media calibrations in which the off-media
15 calibration measured values are used along with the correlation between the on-
16 media calibration measured values and the off-media calibration measured
17 values to calibrate the printing device.

1 2. A method as in claim 1 wherein in substep (a.1) the colorant is toner.

1 3. A method as in claim 1 wherein in substep (a.1) the colorant is ink.

1 4. A method as in claim 1 wherein in substep (a.2) the measurement is
2 performed using one of the following:

3 a densitometer,

4 a colorimeter, and

5 a spectrophotometer.

11 wherein the self-calibrating printing device uses the on-media calibration
12 measured values to calibrate the printing device;

13 wherein the self-calibrating printing device makes a correlation between
14 the on-media calibration measured values and the off-media calibration
15 measured values; and,

16 wherein, during subsequent off-media calibrations the self-calibrating
17 printing device uses the off-media calibration measured values along with the
18 correlation between the on-media calibration measured values and the off-media
19 calibration measured values to calibrate the printing device.

10. A self-calibrating printing device as in claim 9 wherein the colorant is
toner.

11. A self-calibrating printing device as in claim 9 wherein the colorant is
ink.

12. A self-calibrating printing device as in claim 9 wherein the sensor
comprises one of the following:

a densitometer,

a colorimeter,

a spectrophotometer.

13. A self-calibrating printing device as in claim 9 wherein during on-
media calibration, the printing device varies print parameters until the on-media
calibration measured values are substantially equal to target measure values.

14. A self-calibrating printing device as in claim 9 wherein during on-
media calibration, the marking engine places colorant on the print media in half-
toned patches.

15. A self-calibrating printing device as in claim 14 wherein during off-
media calibration, the colorant placed on the transportation belt is arranged in

3 half-toned patches that correspond to the half-toned patches placed on the print
4 media during on-media calibration.

1 16. A self-calibrating printing device as in claim 9 wherein the sensing
2 device comprises a plurality of sensors.

1 17. A printing device, comprising:
2 a colorant placing engine for in the course of normal printing placing
3 colorant on print media, the colorant placing engine also for placing colorant on
4 the print media during on-media calibration; and,
5 a sensing device, wherein during on-media calibration, the sensing device
6 performs a measurement to obtain on-media calibration measured values;
7 wherein the printing device uses the on-media calibration measured
8 values to calibrate the printing device;
9 wherein the printing device makes a correlation between the on-media
10 calibration measured values and off-media calibration measured values
11 calculated during an initial off-media calibration cycle; and,
12 wherein, during subsequent off-media calibration cycles the printing
13 device uses the off-media calibration measured values along with the correlation
14 between the on-media calibration measured values and the off-media calibration
15 measured values to calibrate the printing device.

1 18. A printing device as in claim 17 wherein the sensor comprises one of
2 the following:
3 a densitometer,
4 a colorimeter,
5 a spectrophotometer.

1 19. A printing device as in claim 17 wherein during on-media calibration,
2 the printing device varies print parameters until the on-media calibration
3 measured values are substantially equal to target measure values.

1 20. A printing device as in claim 17 wherein during on-media calibration,
2 the colorant placing engine places colorant on the print media in half-toned
3 patches.

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